



Personal

Ottawa,
August 25, 1945

D. E. Kilgour, Esq.,
President and General Manager,
North American Life Assurance Company,
Toronto I, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Kilgour:

I was delighted to receive your letter of the 1st of August, with which you kindly enclosed a copy of an address you recently delivered in Halifax, dealing particularly with the early problems of Canada.

If you will allow me to do so, I should like to say that the address is wholly admirable. The association of the events described with particular periods of your own life lend to its pages a living interest which adds immensely to the events narrated.

A thorough understanding of the difficulties that were encountered and overcome by our forefathers in building this country should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to the present generation in facing and seeking a solution of the many problems pertaining to Canada's future. You are rendering a fine national service in seeking to enlighten the Canadian people on aspects of the past history of our country, of which we all may be justly proud. I need scarcely say that I have read the address with the greatest possible interest and am preserving it for purposes of future reference among important historical records.

Naturally, I have been especially interested in that part of your address which relates to the rebellion of 1837, and particularly pleased to know of the close friendship which existed between your great grandfather, David Oliphant, and my grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie.

Freed from the animosities of party controversy, the events of 1837-38 have come, with the passing of the years, to be viewed in truer perspective. I like the true light which your address throws upon that period and those immediately associated with its reforms.

May I thank you most warmly for your kind personal references to my own part in public affairs.

My father had few friends, if any, more deeply valued than Mr. Buckingham, of Stratford. I have been particularly fortunate in enjoying a like friendship with Walter. It adds to the happiness which your letter has given me to be reminded that Mrs. Buckingham is a sister of yours.

I much hope that some early occasion will afford me the pleasure of meeting you personally. To that I shall greatly look forward. Meanwhile, please allow me to say that your letter and its enclosure has given me exceptional pleasure. I shall retain both for reading again from time to time.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. Channing

P.S. You will, I am sure, understand the circumstances which have made it difficult for me to send, at an earlier date, anything more than a mere acknowledgment of your kind letter. Since it was written, the world has passed through one of its epoch-making periods.

W. H. Channing